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TRK

TO WITHDRAW FORCES FROM RVN 'IMMEDIATELY'

B240940 SEOUL HAPTONG IN ENGLISH 0804 GMT 24 JAN 73 B

(TEXT) SEOUL, JAN. 24 (HAPTONG)-- PRESIDENT PAK CHONG-HUI TODAY WELCOMED THE AGREEMENT TO END THE WAR IN VIETNAM, ANNOUNCING AN IMMEDIATE WITHDRAWAL OF THE 40,000-MAN KOREAN FORCE FROM SOUTH VIETNAM.

IN A SPECIAL STATEMENT ISSUED HERE THIS AFTERNOON, PRESIDENT PAK ALSO SAID HIS GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE "ITS STRONG BONDS OF FRIENDSHIP WITH THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM AND WILL OFFER ALL POSSIBLE COOPERATION TO THAT COUNTRY IN THE POSTWAR RECONSTRUCTION PROJECTS."

HE SAID THAT THE END OF THE LONG-DRAWN-OUT WAR IN VIETNAM BEARS TESTIMONY TO THE SUCCESSFUL ACCOMPLISHMENT OF THE MISSION BY THE KOREAN TROOPS WHO HAVE SERVED IN THE WAR-TORN COUNTRY SINCE 1965.

THE FULL TEXT OF THE PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT WAS AS FOLLOWS:

"I WELCOME THE END OF THE LONG-DRAWN-OUT WAR IN VIETNAM AND THE RESTORATION OF PEACE IN THAT AREA. THE KOREAN GOVERNMENT, THE PEOPLE AND I SINCERELY WISH THAT THE CEASE-FIRE WILL LEAD TO LASTING PEACE IN VIETNAM.

"KOREAN TROOPS HAVE SERVED IN VIETNAM SINCE 1965 AT THE REQUEST OF THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT TO HELP THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE DEFEND THEIR FREEDOM AND INDEPENDENCE AND DECIDE THEIR OWN DESTINY.

"NOW THAT THE ORIGINAL MISSION OF THE KOREAN TROOPS HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED, I HAVE DECIDED TO CARRY OUT THE HONORABLE WITHDRAWAL OF THE REMAINING FORCES FROM VIETNAM IMMEDIATELY.

"THE REMARKABLE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE KOREAN CRUSADERS FOR PEACE WHO WILL SOON RETURN HOME HONORABLY WILL SHINE FOREVER IN THE ANNALS OF PEACE AND JUSTICE.

"NOW I EXTEND MY WHOLEHEARTED CONGRATULATIONS TO THE KOREAN TROOPS IN VIETNAM WHO HAVE BRAVELY AND FAITHFULLY FULFILLED THEIR DUTIES IN THE BATTLEFIELD WITHOUT FRONTLINES.

"MY PROFOUND GRATITUDE ALSO GOES TO THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE GIVEN ALL-OUT ASSISTANCE AND ENCOURAGEMENT TO ALL KOREAN OFFICERS AND MEN IN VIETNAM AND THEIR FAMILIES SO THAT THE CRUSADERS FOR PEACE CAN RETURN HOME WITH HONOR.

"THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA WILL CONTINUE ITS STRONG BONDS OF FRIENDSHIP WITH THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM AND WILL OFFER ALL POSSIBLE COOPERATION TO THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE IN THEIR EFFORTS FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND REHABILITATION."

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B240940 SEOUL HAPTONG IN ENGLISH 0829 GMT 24 JAN 73 B

(TEXT) SEOUL, JAN. 24 (HAPTONG)--SOUTH KOREA WILL WITHDRAW ITS 40,000-STRONG FORCE FROM SOUTH VIETNAM ON A GRADUAL BASIS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE VIETNAM CEASE-FIRE AGREEMENT CALLING FOR COMPLETE PULLOUT OF FOREIGN TROOPS WITHIN 60 DAYS, DEFENSE MINISTER YU CHAE-HUNG SAID TODAY.

THE DEFENSE CHIEF SAID THAT THE PHASED KOREAN MILITARY WITHDRAWAL WILL START SOON FOR COMPLETION BEFORE THE 60-DAY DEADLINE.

THE WITHDRAWAL PLAN WILL BE CARRIED OUT AFTER FULL CONSULTATIONS WITH THE SAIGON GOVERNMENT, IT SAID.

THE MINISTER MADE THE STATEMENT AFTER HE MET WITH MAJOR MILITARY COMMANDERS HERE THIS AFTERNOON TO DISCUSS A WHOLE RANGE OF PROBLEMS RELATED TO THE TROOP WITHDRAWAL.

MEANWHILE, INFORMED SOURCES SAID A ROUGH TIMETABLE ENDING THE 7-YEAR-LONG KOREAN MILITARY PRESENCE IN SOUTH VIETNAM WAS AGREED ON BETWEEN SEOUL AND WASHINGTON WHEN U.S. PRESIDENTIAL ENVOY GEN. ALEXANDER HAIG VISITED HERE LAST WEEKEND.

GEN. HAIG MADE AN OVERNIGHT VISIT TO SEOUL ON HIS WAY BACK HOME FROM SAIGON FOR TALKS WITH PRESIDENT CHUNG-HEE PARK.

SOUTH KOREAN TROOPS, THE ONLY FOREIGN GROUND FORCES NOW IN SOUTH VIETNAM, HAVE SERVED THERE SINCE 1965.

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